

By: Representative McGee

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 854

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-54-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY  
3 LICENSE TO PROVIDE THAT THE APPLICANT'S DEGREE MAY BE FROM AN  
4 INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF  
5 COUNSELING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (CACREP) AND TO REDUCE  
6 THE NUMBER OF CLIENT CONTACT HOURS THAT THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE  
7 COMPLETED IN A CLINICAL PRACTICUM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-54-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 73-54-17. (1) Any person who applies for a marriage and  
12 family therapy license after September 1, 2000, shall be issued  
13 that license by the board if he or she meets the qualifications  
14 set forth in Section 73-54-13, and submits the required  
15 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board  
16 that he or she:

17 (a) Meets educational and experience qualifications as  
18 follows:

19 (i) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in  
20 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher



21 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on  
22 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),  
23 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation  
24 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation;

25 (ii) Following the receipt of the first qualifying  
26 degree, has at least two (2) years of supervised experience in  
27 marriage and family therapy, or its equivalent, acceptable to the  
28 board; and

29 (iii) Has completed at least one hundred (100)  
30 hours of marriage and family therapy supervision following receipt  
31 of the first qualifying degree, as defined by the board; and

32 (b) Passes the national Examination in Marital and  
33 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and  
34 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards; and

35 (c) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal  
36 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable  
37 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as  
38 prescribed by the board.

39 (2) Any person who applies for a marriage and family therapy  
40 associate license after September 1, 2011, shall be issued that  
41 license by the board for a period of twenty-four (24) months,  
42 which may be renewed biennially for a period not to exceed a total  
43 of forty-eight (48) months, if the applicant meets the  
44 qualifications set forth in Section 73-54-13, submits the required



45 application fees, and provides satisfactory evidence to the board  
46 that he or she:

47 (a) Holds a master's degree or doctoral degree in  
48 marriage and family therapy from an institution of higher  
49 education in a program that is accredited by the Commission on  
50 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE),  
51 or that was in COAMFTE candidacy status at the time of graduation  
52 and subsequently received COAMFTE accreditation; or holds a  
53 master's degree or doctoral degree in marriage, couple and family  
54 counseling from an institution of higher education that is  
55 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
56 Related Educational Programs (CACREP);

57 (b) Completed a clinical practicum that consisted of a  
58 minimum of \* \* \* three hundred (300) client contact hours and one  
59 hundred (100) hours of clinical supervision before receipt of the  
60 qualifying degree;

61 (c) Passes the national Examination in Marital and  
62 Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and  
63 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards;

64 (d) Provides all professional services under the  
65 supervision of a qualified supervisor in accordance with a  
66 supervision contract approved by the board; and

67 (e) Has been successfully cleared through a criminal  
68 history records check, including a fingerprint and an acceptable



69 sex offender check, by appropriate governmental authorities as  
70 prescribed by the board.

71 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
72 and after July 1, 2023.

